TRENDS

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ASSOCIATION
OF AMERICAN
RAILROADS

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 21, 1985 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 16 totaled an estimated 18.3 billion ton-miles, 1.8 percent below the corresponding week of 1984, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 11 weeks of 1985 was an estimated 183.7 billion ton-miles, down 5.4 percent from the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 16 totaled 398,008, down 2.8 percent from last year, but 3.0 percent higher than the preceding week. Compared with last year, loadings were up 0.9 percent in the South, but down 2.1 percent in the East and 5.4 percent in the West.

Compared with the corresponding week last year, 14 of the 21 major commodity groups decreased. Loadings of motor vehicles and equipment were up 1,436 cars (6.7 percent). Fourteen of 21 commodity groups increased from the preceding week.

Piggyback

The AAR reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads for the week ended March 9 totaled 88,926 trailers and/or containers, 1.3 percent below the corresponding week of 1984.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first ten weeks of the year was 821,353 trailers and/or containers, down 3.8 percent from 1984.

As noted in Trends of the two previous weeks, the figures for flatcar loadings in the weekly TOFC/COFC report have been discontinued. The increased use of longer trailers has made the figures less and less comparable to the past, as many flatcars now carry only one trailer, where they carried two before.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/16/85:

	Loadings in Week ended March 16, 1985		Change from Corresponding Week 1984			Change from Preceding Week	
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent
Grain	24,832	D	4,756	16.1	I	2,582	11.6
Other farm products	3,834	I	491	14.7	I	468	13.9
Metallic ores	11,833	D	5,264	30.8	D	454	3.7
Coal	119,652	D	1,570	1.3	I	3,602	3.1
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	10,596	I	914	9.4	D	207	1.9
Nonmetallic minerals	11,705	D	197	1.7	I	183	1.6
Grain mill products	10,665	D	801	7.0	D	110	1.0
Food and kindred products	11,639	I	919	8.6	I	310	2.7
Primary forest products	12,912	D	1,605	11.1	D	1	0.0
Lumber and wood products except furniture	7,147	D	688	8.8	I	386	5.7
Pulp, paper and allied products	14,631	D	258	1.7	D	273	1.8
Chemicals and allied products	28,183	I	2,122	8.1	I	2,416	9.4
Petroleum products	4,677	D	348	6.9	I	195	4.4
Stone, clay and glass products	11,237	I	251	2.3	I	717	6.8
Coke	5,310	I	72	1.4	I	666	14.3
Metals and products	9,664	D	832	7.9	I	648	7.2
Motor vehicles and equipment	22,842	I	1,436	6.7	I	597	2.7
Waste and scrap materials	10,536	D	128	1.2	I	439	4.3
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	6,916	D	478	6.5	I	18	0.3
All other carloads	59,039	D	662	1.1	D	556	0.9
LCL traffic	158	D	92	36.8	D	17	9.7
Total Cars Loaded	398,008	D	11,474	2.8	I	11,609	3.0
Corresponding week of 1984	409,482						

	1985	1984	% Change
Total Cars Loaded (11 weeks)	3,966,513	4,225,979	D 6.1
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):			
10 Weeks ended March 9	165.4	175.5	D 5.8
Week ended March 16	18.3	18.6	D 1.8
11 weeks cumulative	183.7	194.2	D 5.4

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